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**U.S. Representative**

***John Spratt***

South Carolina ■ 5th District

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**News Release**

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**Spratt Wins Initial Funding  
Commitments for New Dining Hall at Shaw**

**WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that two key subcommittees in the House have approved his request for \$5.2 million to fund a new 21,291 square-foot dining hall at Shaw Air Force Base.**

“We are off to a good start in getting a new airman’s dining center for Shaw,” said Spratt. “The subcommittee chairmen funded the full amount I asked for. The committees and the House now have to pass these bills, and we then have to duplicate these steps in the Senate. But getting out of the starting blocks in the House is more than half the race.”

The dining center will seat 250 and will include a postal service center for sorting mail before delivery to cluster boxes in the dormitory area.

Spratt’s request was approved May 2 by the Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities of the House Armed Services Committee. Spratt is a senior member of the full Committee. The House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Military Construction also approved the request the same day.

“Shaw has wanted to replace the ‘Carolina Pines’ dining hall for years, but year after year, the funding request from the Air Force was withheld,” Spratt said. “I have visited the dining hall several times, and Shaw does a good job of making it presentable, but there is too little food preparation and storage space. There are leaking pipes and overloaded utilities. The building is 42 years old and simply outdated, rated the second worst in Air Combat Command. Shaw has waited long enough. This year, I took the initiative and got \$5.2 million added to the budget.”

Spratt continued: “This dining center should be a plus for quality of life at Shaw, and I hope, a morale-booster for the men and women who serve there. It should also be a plus for Shaw in the next base closing round.”

Spratt emphasized that the subcommittees’ approval of \$5.2 million is the first step in a multi-step process, but said that Sens. Hollings and Thurmond were behind the project and that he will stay on top of the process until it is completed.       # # #